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AN ADAPTIVE GEOMETRICAL COMPENSATION CONTROL SCHEME FOR HYDRAULIC MANIPULATORS

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An adaptive geometrical compensation control scheme is proposed for hydraulic manipulators. The scheme consists of feedforward geometric compensation, computed on the basis of the desired joint velocity, and adaptive feedback control for correcting the deviations from the desired trajectory. The simulation results confirm the effectiveness of the proposed control scheme.

INTRODUCTION

At present, most industrial robot control systems utilize independent PID joint controllers. However, the simple independent joint control is not adequate for the case when the robot manipulators move at high speed and in situations requiring a precise tracking of the trajectories and sustaining a desirable high dynamic performance for varying payloads.

To overcome the shortcoming of the independent joint control, a number of advanced control schemes have been proposed during the past decade, where most of the advanced control schemes utilizes dynamic compensation techniques, e.g. computed-torque control [1], feedforward control [2], and adaptive perturbation control [3]. The dynamic compensation in these schemes may in principle be performed either on-line or off-line. However, in the on-line calculation approach, computation time is a major problem and a heavy computational burden tends to limit the adaptation rates significantly. Furthermore, when the systems under consideration do not have a large memory capacity at the joint level, the off-line calculation method is unfeasible.

In this paper an adaptive geometric compensation scheme is proposed for hydraulic manipulators, which consists of feedforward geometric compensation, computed on the basis of the desired joint velocity, and adaptive feedback control to force the robot to track the desired trajectory. Because the scheme does not require computation of the inverse robot arm dynamics, the feedforward compensation can be easily implemented on-line.

For expository convenience, the control scheme is developed based on a two-link hydraulic test robot which was designed and constructed at the Control Engineering Institute, Technical University of Denmark [4-5]. The results can be extended to other manipulators.

A TWO-LINK HYDRAULIC TEST ROBOT

The constructed hydraulic test robot is shown in Fig. 1. The robot arms are directly driven by hydraulic actuators which are controlled by super-high frequency response servovalves. The cylinders in the actuators are symmetric with double piston rods. The controller is implemented with an AT&T WE-DSP32 signal processor, which has the machine cycle time of 40 nsec. One of the goals of designing and constructing the hydraulic test robot is to investigate the feasibility of implementing adaptive control techniques for fast robots.

The robot arm dynamics can be described by a Lagrange-Euler equation of motion

$$D(q)\ddot{q} + H(q, \dot{q}) + G(q) = \tau \quad (1)$$

where q , \dot{q} , and \ddot{q} are vectors signifying the joint positions, velocities, and accelerations, respectively, $D(q)$ is an acceleration-related matrix, $H(q, \dot{q})$ is a Coriolis and centrifugal force vector, $G(q)$ is a gravitational force vector, and τ is an applied torque vector generated by the actuators.

The actuator equations consist of a servovalve dynamic equation, a cylinder continuity equation, a static valve equation, and a piston

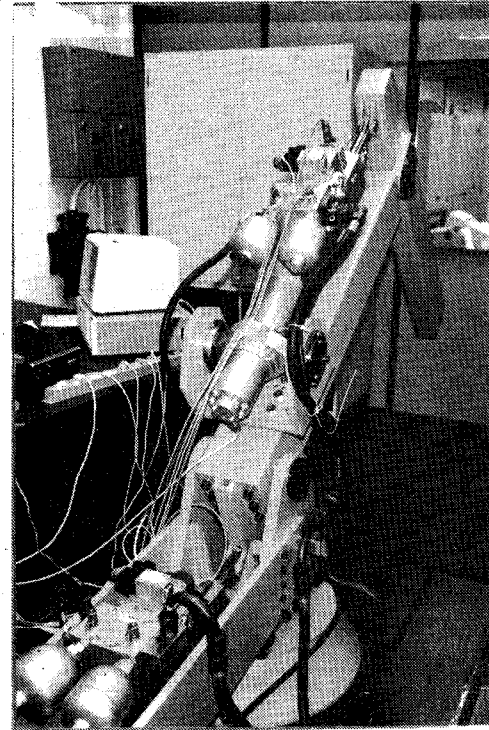


Figure 1 The constructed hydraulic test robot

force equation. Since the two actuators, one for each link, are equal, it is assumed that they have the same static and dynamic characteristics. For the sake of brevity, we shall drop the subscribes for the variables which can be applied on one of the two actuators without confusion in sequentia.

The dynamic response of the servovalves can approximately be described by the transfer function:

$$\frac{x_v}{e_g} = \frac{k_v}{s^2/\omega_s^2 + 2\xi_s s/\omega_s + 1} \quad (2)$$

where x_v is the displacement of the spool valve from null, e_g is the signal voltage input to the amplifier, k_v is the amplifier gain, and $\omega_s (= 190 \text{ Hz})$ and $\xi_s (= 0.63)$ are the natural frequency and damping ratio of the servovalve, respectively, which are estimated by means of the measured frequency response of the servovalve.

The static equation of the servovalve can approximately be described by the nonlinear flow equation:

$$Q_f = \begin{cases} c_v \omega x_v \sqrt{(P_s - P_f)/\rho} & \text{for } x_v > 0 \\ c_v \omega x_v \sqrt{(P_s + P_f)/\rho} & \text{for } x_v < 0 \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where

Q_f flow across the piston,
 discharge coefficient of the valve orifices.

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w area gradient of the spool valve,
 P_s supply pressure,
 P_f pressure drop across the piston, and
 ρ mass density of oil.

Assuming that the piston is centred and that the cylinder has two symmetrical volume chambers, the continuity equation of the cylinder is:

$$Q_f = A_t \cdot \dot{x} + \frac{V_t}{4\beta} \cdot \dot{P}_f + c_{sl} \cdot P_f \quad (4)$$

where:

V_t total volume of the cylinder chambers,
 c_{sl} total leakage coefficient of the piston,
 β effective bulk modulus of the system,
 A_t end area of the piston, and
 \dot{x} piston velocity.

The force equations of the two pistons are:

$$\begin{aligned} A_t \cdot P_{1f} &= m_t \cdot \ddot{x}_1 + B_t \cdot \dot{x}_1 + m_t \cdot g \cdot \sin(w_1 - \gamma) + F_1 \\ A_t \cdot P_{2f} &= m_t \cdot \ddot{x}_2 + B_t \cdot \dot{x}_2 + m_t \cdot g \cdot \sin(\theta_1 - w_2 + \psi) + F_2 \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where the subscripts 1 and 2 denote link 1 and 2, respectively, m_t is the total mass of the piston, B_t is the viscous damping coefficient and F_1 and F_2 are the actuator drive forces.

The joint torques and the actuator drive forces are related by the following equations:

$$\tau_1 = |d_o \cdot \sin(\gamma)| \cdot F_1 \quad \tau_2 = |b_o \cdot \sin(\psi)| \cdot F_2 \quad (6)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma &= \text{Arc tg} \left(\frac{d_o \cdot \sin(\pi + w_1 + V_{cm1} - v_1 - \theta)}{d_o \cdot \cos(\pi + w_1 + V_{cm1} - v_1 - \theta) + c_o} \right) \\ \psi &= \text{Arc tg} \left(\frac{a_o \cdot \sin(\pi + w_2 + V_{cm2} + v_2 + \alpha)}{a_o \cdot \cos(\pi + w_2 + V_{cm2} - v_2 + \alpha) + b_o} \right) \end{aligned}$$

where the geometric parameters are defined on Fig. 2.

CONTROLLER DESIGN AND SIMULATION RESULTS

Fig. 3 shows the adaptive control scheme to be investigated in this paper. The control scheme consists of feedforward compensation for the gross compensation and adaptive feedback control loop for correcting the deviations from the desired trajectory.

FEEDFORWARD COMPENSATION DESIGN

If a complete dynamic compensation is carried out, the calculation of the dynamic compensation not only includes the calculation of the inverse arm dynamics, but also the transformation of the joint torques to the servo drive forces. A DSP program in C for the complete compensation requires 5547 machine states, corresponding to 0.23 msec. Based on AT&T WE DSP32. Since the signal processor also performs the operations of the adaptive feedback control loop, which in general requires more computational time because an on-line identification should be carried out, the feedforward compensation with a heavy computational burden will limit the adaptation rates. Therefore, we should, preferably, look for approaches which can reduce the on-line calculation time of the feedforward compensation.

Fig. 4 shows a signal flow diagram for computing the feedforward compensation based on the desired joint trajectory, where the load flow Q_f in (4) has been divided into two parts: $\bar{Q}_f = A_t \cdot \dot{x}^d$ and $\bar{Q}_f = \frac{V_t}{4\beta} \cdot \dot{P}_f + c_{sl} P_f$; and the first part is the flow used to displace the piston, and the second part is the flow due to the compressibility of flow and the leakage flow. The desired joint trajectory affects the feedforward compensation along two paths: a geometrical path by means of (\bar{Q}_f) and a dynamic path by means of (\bar{Q}_f) , where the geometrical path is independent of the robot arm dynamics. If we only use the geometrical path for the gross compensation, the computational time for the feedforward compensation will be greatly reduced.

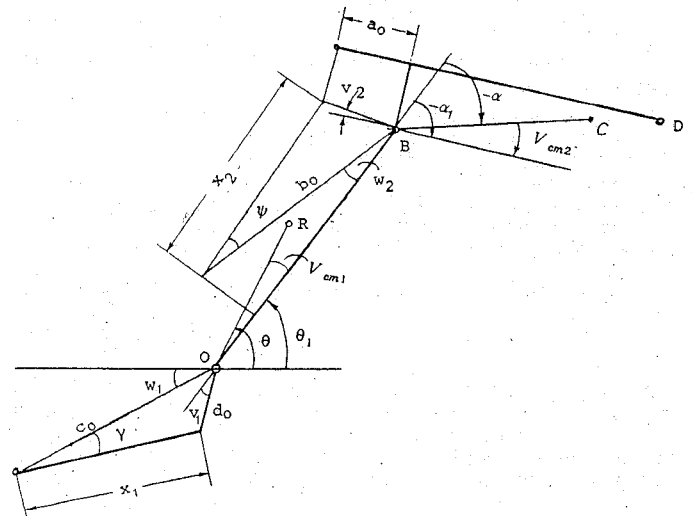
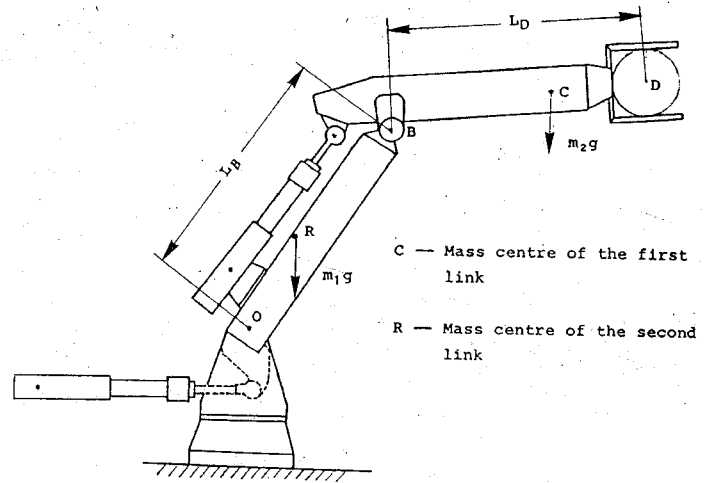


Figure 2 The link geometry of the test robot

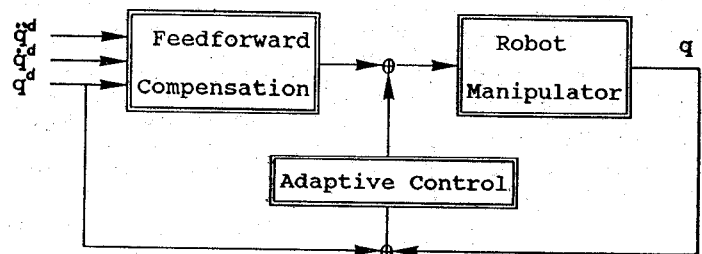


Figure 3 The adaptive control scheme with feedforward compensation

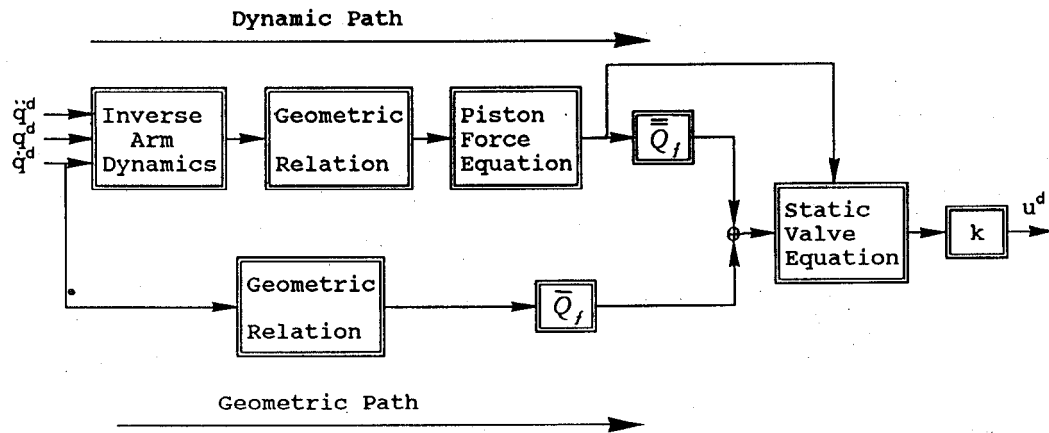


Figure 4 The signal flow diagram for computing the feedforward compensation

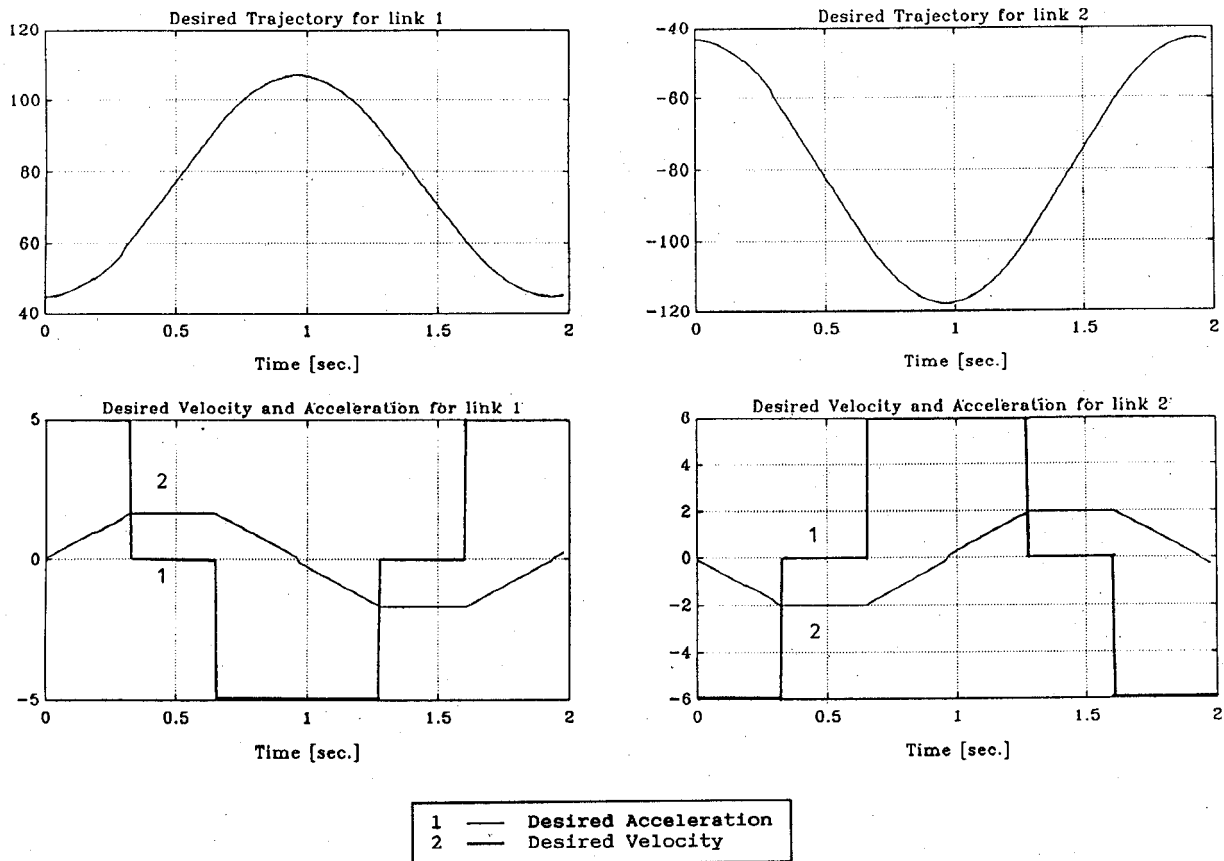


Figure 5 The desired trajectories for the two joints

The numerical analysis and the simulation of the robot system have shown that the geometrical path plays a dominant role. For example, for the desired trajectory shown in Fig. 5, the decompositions of the continuity equations show that Q_f has a profile similar to one that \bar{Q}_f has, referring to Figs. 6 and 7. For the gross compensation, furthermore, the dynamic response of the servovalve can be approximated by a constant gain k_g . As a result, the feedforward compensation can be computed by using:

$$u^d(t) = \begin{bmatrix} u_1^d \\ u_2^d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} k_{1g} \cdot A_t \cdot \dot{x}_1^d(t) \\ k_{2g} \cdot A_t \cdot \dot{x}_2^d(t) \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

where \dot{x}_1^d and \dot{x}_2^d are the piston velocities, which are related to the desired joint velocities by the linear equations, respectively. This scheme, termed the geometrical compensation scheme, only requires three multiplications. Thus, all calculations of the inverse arm dynamics and the transformations from the joint torques to the piston drive forces are ignored.

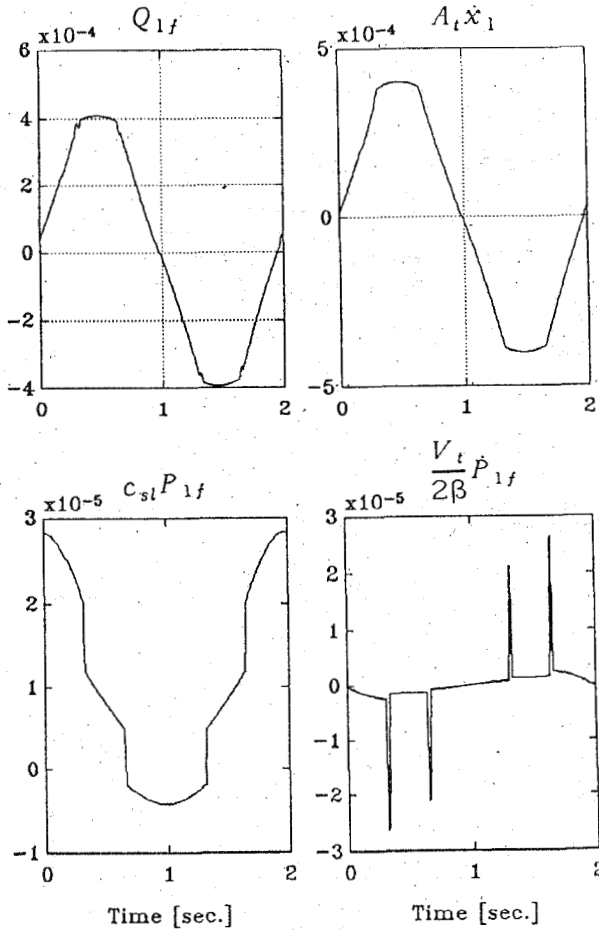


Figure 6 The decompositions of the continuity equation for the actuator 1

$$Q_{1f} = A_t \dot{x}_1 + \frac{V_t}{4\beta} \dot{P}_{1f} + c_{sl} P_{1f}$$

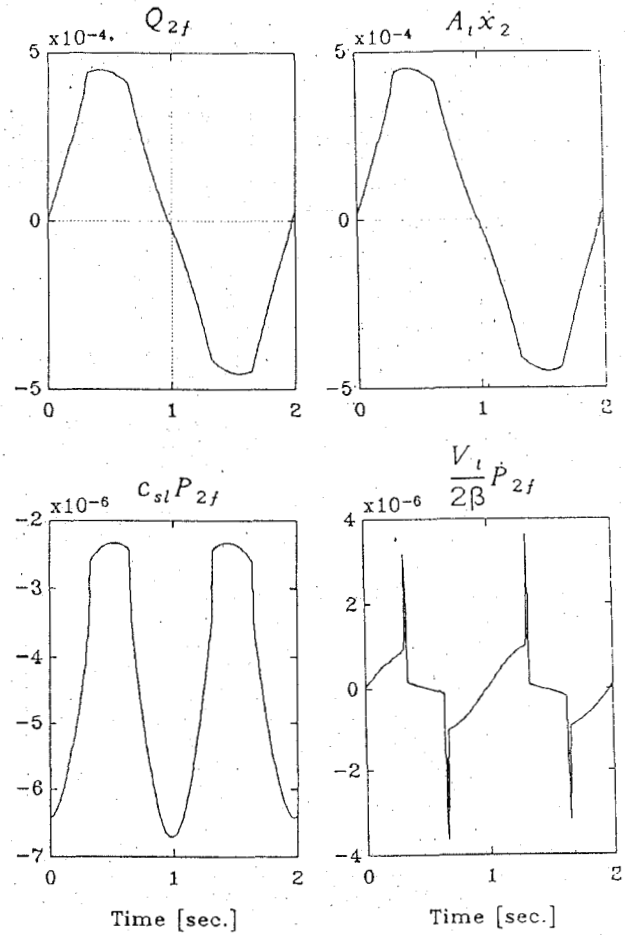


Figure 7 The decompositions of the continuity equation for the actuator 2

$$Q_{2f} = A_t \dot{x}_2 + \frac{V_t}{4\beta} \dot{P}_{2f} + c_{sl} P_{2f}$$

ADAPTIVE FEEDBACK CONTROL DESIGN

We assume that the perturbation of each joint can be modelled separately by the model:

$$A(z^{-1})\delta q(k) = B(z^{-1})\delta u(k-1) + \frac{1}{D(z^{-1})}e(k) \quad (8)$$

$$A(z^{-1}) = 1 + a_1 z^{-1} + a_2 z^{-2}$$

$$B(z^{-1}) = b_0 + b_1 z^{-1}$$

$$D(z^{-1}) = 1 + d_1 z^{-1} + d_2 z^{-2}$$

$$\delta q(k) = q^d(k) - q(k)$$

where k denotes the sampling instant. Based on the linear model, the generalized minimum variance controller [5-6] can be used to compute the feedback control. The cost function is

$$J = E\{(\delta q(k+1))^2 + \mu(\delta u(k))^2\} \quad (9)$$

where $E(\cdot)$ is the expectation operator conditional on data up to time k ; and μ is the control weight. The minimization of the cost function gives:

$$\delta u(k) = -\frac{G\delta q(k)}{D\hat{B} + \mu/\hat{b}_0} \quad (10)$$

$$G = z(1 - \hat{A}\hat{D}).$$

where " $\hat{\cdot}$ " denotes the estimates of the unknown polynomials A , B and D by using the recursive generalized least squares algorithm.

SIMULATION RESULTS

Our simulations show that for a robot manipulator in which the mass centre of the link is not close to the joint, the geometrical scheme might give big trajectory deviations when the links move from the high position to the low position at high speed. The reason for that is that the amplitude of the compensation control is too big in that period due to the lack of the robot arm gravity compensation. This is confirmed by a comparison of the complete (dynamic and geometric) compensation and the geometric compensation, shown in Fig. 8 based on the trajectory shown in Fig. 5. A remedy to reduce the effect of gravity is to multiply the compensation control by a gravity compensation factor in the period when the link moves from the high position to the low position.

Fig. 9 presents the trajectory trackings and control inputs of the two links for the modified geometrical compensation scheme, where the compensation control is multiplied by 0.7 in the last half part of the trajectory for the link 1 and by 0.8 in the first half part of the trajectory for the link 2. The maximum position errors are 2.53° for the joint 1 and 3.25° for the joint 2. The trajectory tracking performance of the two links is close to the results obtained with the complete dynamics compensation scheme.

CONCLUSIONS

An adaptive geometric compensation scheme for hydraulic manipulators have been proposed and investigated. The adaptive geometrical compensation scheme has the advantages of less computation time and simplicity. Another important advantage is that it does not require any knowledge of the dynamic model of the robot arm. The feasibility study of implementing the regarded adaptive control scheme proposed has shown that it is possible to implement the adaptive control scheme on a fast robot manipulator based on available processors. For example, a DSP program in C for implementing the regarded control scheme requires total 36900 machine states, corresponding to 1.48 msec. Based on the AT&T WE DSP32 Digital Signal Processor. Experimental study of implementing the control schemes on the hydraulic test robot is now being carried out at our Institute.

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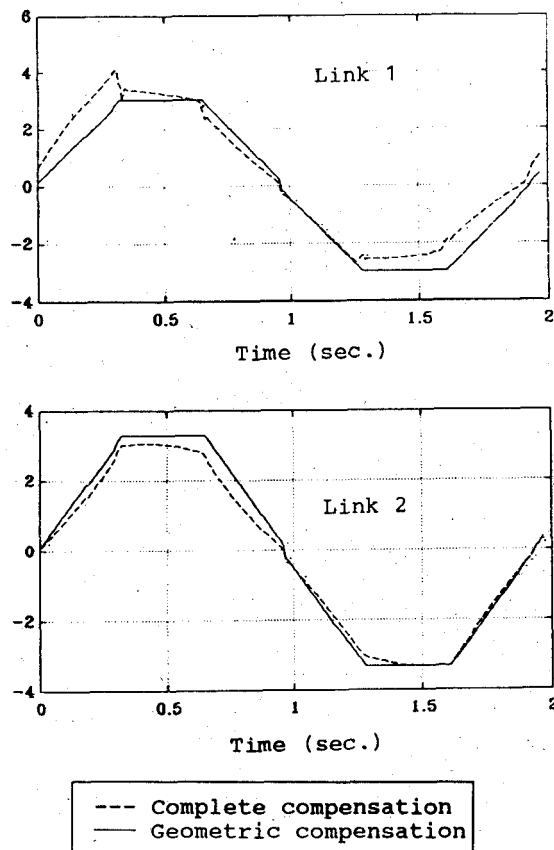


Figure 9 The simulation results

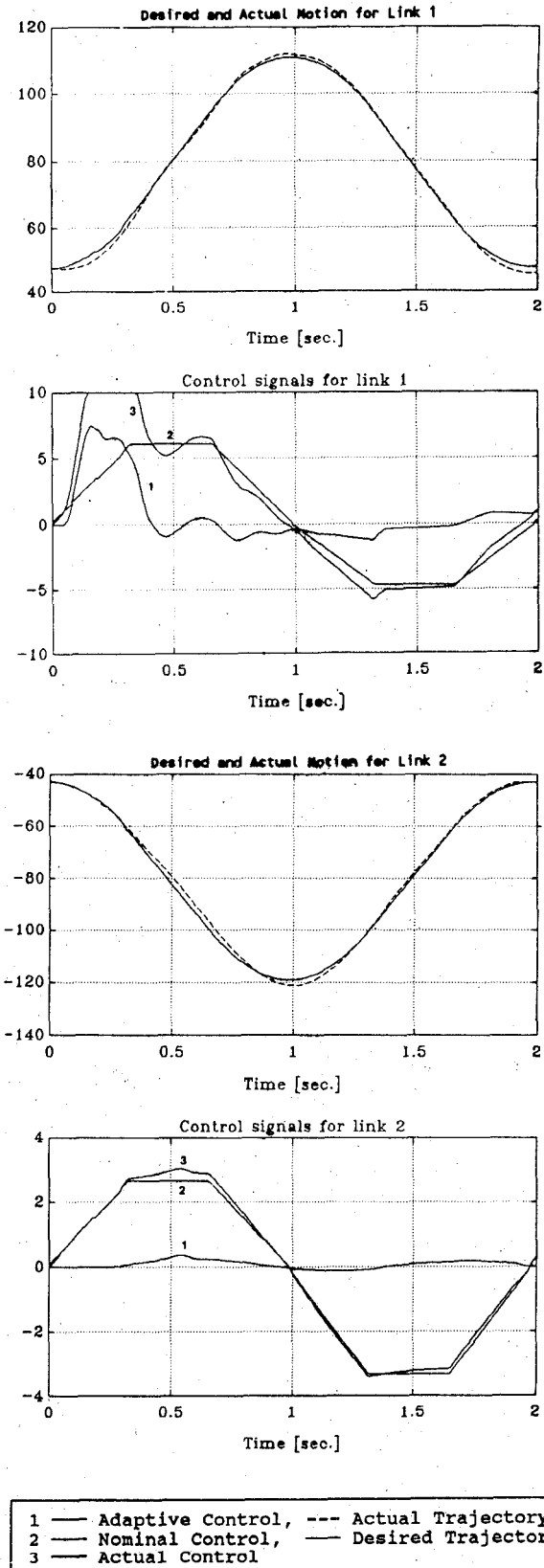


Figure 8 Comparison of the complete compensation and the geometric compensation